

BRIEFING—CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATIONS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Congressional Notifications. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

SECURITY CLEARANCE REFORM

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management held a hearing on Security Clearance Reform. Testimony was heard from Brenda S. Farrell, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, GAO.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE—ROLE OF NATURAL GAS

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming: Held a hearing entitled “What’s Cooking with Gas: the Role of Natural Gas in Energy Independence and Global Warming Solutions.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

ENERGY CRISIS

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ways to solve the energy crisis, focusing on reducing dependence on foreign oil, creating new energy resources, and strengthening the nation’s economy, after receiving testimony from Ian Bowles, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Boston, Massachusetts; Dan W. Reicher, Google.org, Mountain View, California; Jonathan Koomey, Stanford University, Stanford, California; and Mark P. Mills, Digital Power Capital, Arlington, Virginia.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D938)

H.R. 1553, to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to information regarding pediatric cancers and current treatments for such cancers, establish a national childhood cancer registry, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancer. Signed on July 29, 2008. (Public Law 110–285)

H.R. 3890, to impose sanctions on officials of the State Peace and Development Council in Burma, to amend the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to prohibit the importation of gemstones and hardwoods from Burma, to promote a coordinated international effort to restore civilian democratic rule to Burma. Signed on July 29, 2008. (Public Law 110–286)

H.J. Res. 93, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003. Signed on July 29, 2008. (Public Law 110–287)

S. 2766, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel. Signed on July 29, 2008. (Public Law 110–288)

H.R. 3221, to provide needed housing reform. Signed on July 30, 2008. (Public Law 110–289)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the North Korean Six-Party Talks and implementation activities; to be immediately followed by closed session to examine certain intelligence matters in S–407, 9:30 a.m., SR–325.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the state of the nation’s transmission grid, focusing on the implementation of the transmission provisions of the Energy Policy Act (Public Law 109–58), including reliability, siting, and infrastructure investment, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider S. 906, to prohibit the sale, distribution, transfer, and export of elemental mercury, S. 3109, to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system, S. 24, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require a health advisory and monitoring of drinking water for perchlorate, S. 150, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect the health of pregnant women, fetuses, infants, and children by requiring a health advisory and drinking water standard for perchlorate, S. 1911, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect the health of susceptible populations, including pregnant women, infants, and children, by requiring a health advisory, drinking water standard, and reference concentration for trichloroethylene vapor intrusion, S. 1933, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants to small public drinking water systems, S. 2549, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice to provide guidance to Federal agencies on the development of criteria for identifying disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations, S. 642, to codify Executive Order 12898, relating to environmental justice, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to fully implement the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Agency and the Comptroller General of the United States, S. 199, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996 to modify the grant program to improve sanitation in